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## PART I.

### IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS. REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

#### The Excise Licensing Boards.

READ—

Government Order No. Fl. 5371-82—S. R. 136-16-4, dated 17th March 1917, directing the establishment of Licensing Boards in the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore and in the Kolar Gold Fields as an experimental measure with a view to consult local opinion as regards the number and location of shops for the vend of liquors and intoxicating drugs.

2. Government Order No. 5970-8—Ex. 60-18-2, dated 15th November 1918, sanctioning the constitution of Excise Advisory Boards in all District Headquarters except Bangalore, Mysore and the Kolar Gold Fields.

3. Correspondence ending with letter No. C. 100-24, dated 2nd—3rd October 1924, from the Excise Commissioner in Mysore, submitting detailed proposals for the reorganisation of the Excise Licensing Boards and Advisory Committees.

ORDER, NO. FL. 6067-89—EX. 92-23-7, DATED 9TH MAY 1925.

The question of giving Municipalities and other local bodies a voice in the matter of the location of Excise shops has been under the consideration of Government for a long time. The subject has also been discussed both in the Legislative Council and in the Representative Assembly. In the two Government Orders read in the preamble the formation of Licensing Boards for the Bangalore and Mysore Cities and the Kolar Gold Fields and of District Advisory Committees in all other District Headquarters was ordered temporarily for two and three years respectively and these periods have been extended from time to time. From the reports received till now about the working of these bodies, it is found that they have not been meeting regularly or doing much useful work and that the objects for which they were constituted have not been achieved. Government consider it therefore necessary to revise the constitution of these bodies and place them on a more satisfactory footing by giving them somewhat larger powers as well as responsibilities.

2. The Excise Commissioner who was requested to go fully into the question has, after studying the rules in force in British India, submitted the following proposals:—

(1) The number of members on the Bangalore Licensing Board may be raised to eight by the addition of a member elected by the Civic and Social Progress Association.

(2) The Licensing Boards as well as the District Advisory Committees should meet at least four times a year.

(3) Copies of the proceedings of these Boards and Committees should be sent to the Excise Commissioner through the Deputy Commissioner.

(4) The Boards as well as the Committees should be authorised to make recommendations regarding—

- (a) the location of shops within their limits,
- (b) the hours of sale, the age of persons to whom liquor is to be sold, etc.,
- (c) and generally the better conduct of the liquor traffic in the locality.

(5) The lists of shops to be opened in the rural tracts which are not included within the jurisdiction of Licensing Boards or Advisory Committees should be placed before the District and Taluk Boards concerned, three months before the date fixed for the annual auction of the shops.

3. Government have carefully considered the whole question and are pleased to direct as follows:—

(1) In addition to the Bangalore and Mysore City Municipalities and the Kolar Gold Fields for which Licensing Boards have been already ordered to be constituted, similar Boards will be constituted in all Town Municipalities in the first instance, the question of forming such Boards for the other Municipalities as well as for rural areas being deferred for the present.

(2) The Boards will be presided over by the Presidents of the Municipalities concerned (or the Vice-President of the Sanitary Board in the case of the Kolar Gold Fields Licensing Board) and will contain, in addition to the President, eight other members in the case of the two City Municipalities and the Kolar Gold Fields and six other members in the case of the other Municipalities. The Senior Excise Officer and the Police Officer of the locality will be *ex-officio* members of the Board; of the remaining members, two will be elected from among the non-official members of the Municipality or the Sanitary Board as the case may be, and the rest will be nominated by Government on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner which should be submitted through the Excise Commissioner. The Civil and Social Progress Association will be authorised to suggest a member for nomination to the Bangalore City Licensing Board as proposed by the Excise Commissioner.

(3) The Boards will advise Government on matters relating to the opening, abolition and location of Excise shops in the Municipalities as well as in respect of other matters referred to in para 2 (4) above.

(4) Recommendations of the Board about the removal or location of shops should be based on the wishes of the majority of the people of the locality and the manner in which the opinion of such majority was ascertained should be mentioned.

(5) The Boards should meet at least twice a year. Copies of the Proceedings of Boards will be sent through the District Excise Officer to the Deputy Commissioner who will forward a copy thereof to the Excise Commissioner with his remarks.

(6) The recommendations of the Boards should be given effect to, as far as possible, by the Deputy Commissioner or the Excise Commissioner, as the case may be, so far as they may lie within their powers of disposal.

(7) Proposals which are beyond the powers of the Excise Commissioner or which are likely to prejudice the Excise revenue should be referred by him to Government for their orders.

(8) The work of the Licensing Boards for each half-year should be reviewed by the Excise Commissioner and a copy of the review submitted to the Government for information. The review should deal among other matters, with the number of meetings held by the Boards and the extent to which the recommendations of the Boards were accepted or rejected by the Department.

(9) As the District Advisory Committees, as at present constituted, are not in a position to do useful work owing to the nature of their constitution as well as the extent of their jurisdiction, they will be abolished. The District and Taluk Boards may, however, submit proposals for the closing of any existing shop or opening of a shop and such proposals will be taken by the Excise Commissioner into consideration in the preparation of the schedules for the annual sales.

(10) An account of the working of the above arrangements should be embodied by the Excise Commissioner in the annual Administration Report of the Department.

K. V. ANANTARAMAN,

Secretary to Government,  
Revenue Department.